

LUMMI NATION
AWARENESS PROJECT

ON

PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL

The **Awareness Project** seeks to inform Lummi tribal members about the port development proposed by Pacific International Terminals, Inc. (PIT) near the Lummi Reservation’s northern border.

- **The Lummi Nation has not decided to support or oppose the proposed development.**
- We will work with other governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations to make an informed decision once a federal environmental impact study is completed.

CURRENT OPPOSITION

The proposed port development at Cherry Point has already drawn significant criticism at the local, regional and national levels. The majority of concerns expressed publically to date surround environmental issues. Specific details on the potential impacts of the proposed project and associated mitigation measures will be clearer once the required federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and state equivalent are completed in the coming years.

Below you will find some of the reasons why groups oppose the proposed project. It is important to note that the reasoning presented below should not be attributed to the Lummi Nation; the Lummi Nation has not decided to support or oppose the proposed development.

ACTIVE OPPOSITION GROUPS OF THE PROPOSAL INCLUDE:

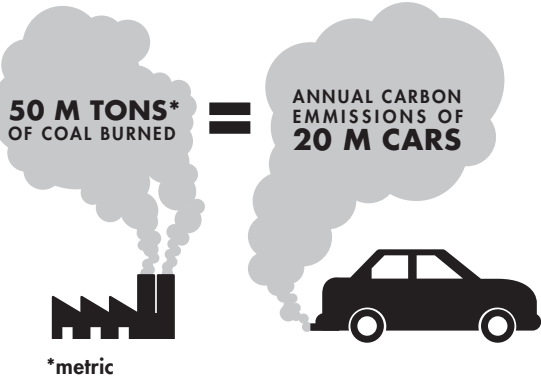
- Climate Solutions
- Sierra Club
- Earthjustice
- Columbia Riverkeeper
- Washington Conservation Voters
- Washington Environmental Council
- Western Organization of Resource Councils
- Whatcom Docs
- Sightline Institute
- RE Sources for Sustainable Communities
- Coal Train Facts

In the next edition of the Squol Quol, the Awareness Project will explore why people support the proposed development.

WHY PEOPLE OPPOSE THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Impact of burning coal

Environmental groups such as Sierra Club, Climate Solutions and Sightline Institute have expressed concerns about the potential impacts to climate change that could result from burning the coal that the proposed development would export as a commodity. They say that by supporting the continued and increased global reliance on fossil fuels as an energy source, particularly coal, the proposed development would hinder progress in combating climate change.



SOURCE: SIGHTLINE INSTITUTE

Doctors express concerns on health impacts

Whatcom Docs, a Bellingham based organization of 160 local doctors, expressed concerns about the health impacts of the proposed development including greater exposure of the population to diesel particulate matter, coal dust and noise pollution. The doctors state that this exposure would increase the surrounding community’s risk to everything from heart attacks to cancer to emphysema. The Whatcom Docs June letter to the Whatcom County Planning and Development Services noted that getting local physicians

“... to publicly oppose this project was a remarkable occurrence, as doctors are politically diverse, averse to controversy, and generally prefer not to broadcast their opinions...”

Additional train trips every day through Western Washington

The City of Bellingham and other municipalities have expressed concerns over the 18 additional train trips every day through Western Washington if the project is approved and fully developed. This would come on top of the existing 16 trains per day through much of the route.



Traffic delays can mean a safety risk

Coal Train Facts, a registered nonprofit in Washington state, has identified numerous safety concerns related to the increase in train traffic. The Federal Railroad Administration has said that an ambulance racing to a heart attack victim or an automobile accident may be delayed only a few minutes by a passing train, but even a few minutes is a very long time in an emergency.

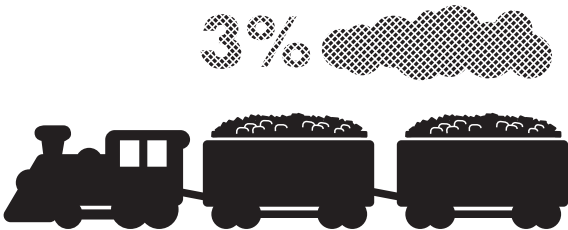


SOURCE: COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Trains lose approximately three percent of their load of coal in transit

Sierra Club has expressed concern about the 24 million metric tons of coal to be exported annually during Phase I of the proposed development. The coal would be transported to the proposed facility in uncovered rail cars. At full build out of the proposed facility, SSA Marine plans to have the capacity to export up 48 million metric tons of coal each year.

The Sierra Club and other conservation groups claim that impacts of coal dust can include degraded water quality, train derailment and an increased risk of bronchitis, emphysema and black lung.



Trains lose approximately three percent of their load of coal in transit from the Powder River Basin, resulting in an accumulation of coal dust in its wake.

SOURCE: BURLINGTON NORTHERN-SANTA FE RAILWAY

The new Awareness Project website is under construction, but please keep an eye out for it on www.lummi-nsn.gov.

In next month’s edition of the Squol Quol, the Awareness Project will focus on: why people are supporting the proposed development and potential positive economic impacts that may result.